

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

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R 051130Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3594

CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

PM SANG RIYADH

DISTENGR COE RIYADH

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 0852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, MARR, SA, US

SUBJECT: COMMAND, CONTROL, AND SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS FOR US DOD
AGENCIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

REF: USCINCEUR 021659Z FEB 76

1. WE CONCUR THAT FULL COORDINATING AUTHORITY OF DOD ELEMENTS
IN SAUDI ARABIA SHOULD BE EXERCISED BY CHUSMTM, AND IN GENERAL TERMS
CONCUR WITH THRUST OF REFTEL. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, A FEW COMMENTS.

2. AFTER CAREFUL CONSIDERATION, I RECOMMEND STRONGLY AGAINST
THE STATIONING IN SAUDI ARABIA OF ADDITIONAL GENERAL OFFICERS OF
HIGHER GRADE THAN THOSE CURRENTLY SERVING IN - COUNTRY. IF HIGHER-
RANKING GENERAL(S) WERE TO BE ASSIGNED, IT COULD GIVE THE APPEARANCE
THAT THERE IS A MAJOR US MILITARY COMMAND HERE. WE SEE NO ADVANTAGE
TO UNITED STATES INTERESTS HERE IN SUCH A MOVE, AND WE PARTICULARLY
DO NOT RPT NOT WANT TO PROVIDE A FOCAL POINT FOR CRITICS IN THE
REGION OF THE CLOSE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND SAUDI
ARABIA.

3. WE REALIZE THAT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS IS EXPANDING ITS PRESENCE
BUT CONSIDER THAT PUBLICITY -- IF ANY AT ALL - OUGHT TO BE AS LOW KEY
AS POSSIBLE.

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4. WHILE IT WOULD CLEARLY BE BETTER FROM AN OPERATIONAL
STANDPOINT TO HAVE THE SAUDI NATIONAL GUARD MODERNIZATION (SANG)
PROGRAM AS PART OF AN EXPANDED US ARMY SECTION UNDER USMTM,
GIVEN THE POLITICAL CHAIN OF COMMAND OF THE NATIONAL
GUARD, WE DO NOT RPT NOT SEE IN THE NEAR OR MID-TERM
THE COMBINING OF THE ARMY AND SANG PROGRAMS AS DESIRABLE.
PORTER

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